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10/702,373	11/05/2003	Hiroshi Kanno	60202(49381)	8448

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EXAMINER	
DEBNATH, SUMAN	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2135	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/702,373	KANNO, HIROSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SUMAN DEBNATH	2135	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 November 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

2. Claims 1, 16 and 19 are presently amended.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/12/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naofumi (Pub. No.: 2001-045192) and further in view of Fuh et al. (Patent No.: US 6,463,474 B1).

6. As to claim 19, Naofumi discloses a terminal apparatus connected to a scanner in a manner permitting communications so as to transmit an operation instruction for causing said scanner to read a document image ([0017], lines 2-4), comprising:

fingerprint information reading means for reading a fingerprint information of an operator ([0019], lines 2-3); fingerprint information storing means for temporarily storing the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means ([0019], lines 2-5); fingerprint information collating means for collating a fingerprint information acquired by said scanner with the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means by means of communications with said scanner ([0028], lines 1-4 and [0017], lines 3-5); and operation permitting means for permitting the operation of said scanner in response to the inputted operation instruction on the basis of the result of collation in said fingerprint information collating means ([0028], lines 1-6).

Naofumi is silent on wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed.

However, Fuh discloses wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed (col. 5, lines 11-20, Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication information (i.e. fingerprint information) if the inactivity timer expires).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the memory space.

7. As to claim 20, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein said scanner and/or said terminal apparatus comprises associated information reading operation of image by said scanner is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image by said scanner completed ([0031]).

Naofumi is silent on deleting associated information when reading operation completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image completed. However, Fuh discloses deleting associated information when reading operation completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image completed (col. 5, lines 11-20, Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication information (i.e. fingerprint information) if the inactivity timer expires).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the memory space.

8. As to claim 21, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein when a document is removed before the reading operation of the image by said scanner is completed, said associated information deleting means does not delete the associated information generated for the removed document ([0031], which describes a checking is done whether the transfer of all images was completed and if not completed returns to complete the transfer).

9. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naofumi in view of Takahashi (Pub. No.: US 2001/0016912 A1).

10. As to claim 1, Naofumi discloses an image processing system including: a scanner for reading a document image ([0017], line 3); and a terminal apparatus connected to said scanner in a manner permitting communications so as to transmit an operation instruction to said scanner ([0017], lines 2-4), wherein said scanner comprises: first fingerprint information reading means for reading fingerprint information of an operator ([0019], lines 2-3); and first fingerprint information storing means for storing temporarily the fingerprint information read by said first fingerprint information reading means ([0019], lines 2-5); and fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information stored in said first fingerprint information storing means with the fingerprint information read by said second fingerprint information reading means by means of communications between said scanner and said terminal apparatus ([0028], lines 1-4 and [0017], lines 3-5); and operation permitting means for permitting the operation of said scanner in response to the operation instruction inputted through said terminal apparatus on the basis of the result of collation in said fingerprint information collating means are provided either in said scanner or in said terminal apparatus, or alternatively any one of said fingerprint information collating means and said operation permitting means is provided in said scanner ([0028], lines 1-6).

Naofumi doesn't explicitly disclose terminal apparatus comprises: second fingerprint information reading means for reading second fingerprint information of the operator or a different operator; and second fingerprint information storing means for storing temporarily the second fingerprint information read by said second fingerprint information reading means; Any one of said fingerprint information collating means and said operation permitting means is provided in the terminal apparatus.

However, Takahashi discloses terminal apparatus (FIG. 1) comprises: second fingerprint information reading means for reading the fingerprint information of an operator or a different operator(FIG. 1, [0044], lines 8-13); and second fingerprint information storing means for storing temporarily the fingerprint information read by said second fingerprint information reading means (FIG. 1, [0044], lines 19-23 and [0009], lines 14-15); Any one of said fingerprint information collating means and said operation permitting means is provided in the terminal apparatus (FIG. 3, [0045], lines 20-27).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Naofumi by including a method for reading fingerprint information by terminal apparatus as taught by Takahashi in order to "prevent the loss, stain, and information leakage of print results when the operator does not collect the print results immediately (Takahashi, [0002], lines 13-18)". Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to maintain the security of the transferred data over the communication network, which could be intercepted by any unauthorized user to view.

Neither Naofumi nor Takahashi explicitly discloses wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed. However, Fuh discloses wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed (col. 5, lines 11-20; Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication information (i.e. fingerprint information) if the inactivity timer expires).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi and Takahashi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the memory space.

11. As to claim 16, Naofumi discloses a scanner connected to a terminal apparatus in a manner permitting communications so as to receive an operation instruction for reading a document image ([0017], lines 2-4), comprising: fingerprint information reading means for reading a fingerprint information of an operator ([0019], lines 2-3); fingerprint information storing means for temporarily storing the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means ([0019], lines 2-5); fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading and terminal apparatus by means of communications with said terminal apparatus ([0028], lines 1-4 and [0017], lines 3-5); and operation permitting means for permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction on

the basis of the result of collation by said fingerprint information collating means ([0028], lines 1-6).

Naofumi doesn't explicitly disclose fingerprint information reading means with fingerprint information acquired by the terminal apparatus; Permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction inputted through the terminal apparatus. However, Takahashi discloses fingerprint information reading means with fingerprint information acquired by the terminal apparatus (FIG. 1, [0044], lines 8-13); Permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction inputted through the terminal apparatus ([0061], lines 9-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Naofumi by including a method for reading fingerprint information by terminal apparatus as taught by Takahashi in order to "prevent the loss, stain, and information leakage of print results when the operator does not collect the print results immediately (Takahashi, [0002], lines 13-18)". Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to maintain the security of the transferred data over the communication network, which could be intercepted by any unauthorized user to view.

Neither Naofumi nor Takahashi explicitly discloses wherein the fingerprint information stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed. However, Fuh discloses wherein the fingerprint information

stored in the scanner is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed (col. 5, lines 11-20, Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication information (i.e. fingerprint information) if the inactivity timer expires).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi and Takahashi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the memory space.

12. As to claim 2, Naofumi discloses wherein when collation by said fingerprint information collating means results in a match ([0028], lines 1-4), said operation permitting means permits the operation of said scanner ([0028], lines 4-7 and [0029]). Naofumi doesn't explicitly disclose permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction inputted through the terminal apparatus. However Takahashi discloses permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction inputted through the terminal apparatus ([0061], lines 9-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Naofumi by including a method for inputting the operation instruction through the terminal apparatus as taught by Takahashi in order to "prevent the loss, stain, and information leakage of print results when the operator does not collect the print results immediately (Takahashi, [0002], lines 13-18)". Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to maintain the security of the

transferred data over the communication network, which could be intercepted by any unauthorized user to view.

13. As to claims 3 and 8, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein said scanner comprises: document image reading means for reading document image before receiving said operation instruction ([0019], lines 1-2); associated information generating means for generating associated information in which the document image information read by said document image reading means ([0019], 1-2) and the fingerprint information read by said first fingerprint information reading means are associated with each other ([0019], lines 1-4); and associated information storing means connected to said scanner in a manner permitting communications so as to store the associated information generated by said associated information generating means is further included ([0020], [0021] and [0019], lines 2-4).

14. As to claims 4 and 9, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein a server provided with said associated information storing means is connected to said scanner ([0008], lines 2-4 and [0033], lines 5-7) and said terminal apparatus in a manner permitting communications ([0021]).

15. As to claims 5, 10 and 13, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein either said scanner or said terminal apparatus comprises: associated fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information stored in said first fingerprint information storing means with the fingerprint information contained in said associated information of the past time ([0022], lines 1-5); and operation inhibiting

means for inhibiting the operation of said scanner when the collation by said associated image information collating means matches and the collation by said associated fingerprint information collating means does not match ([0028], lines 1-6).

Naofumi doesn't explicitly disclose associated image information collating means for collating the document image information read by said document image reading means with the image information contained in said associated information of a past time. However, Takahashi discloses associated image information collating means for collating the document image information read by said document image reading means with the image information contained in said associated information of a past time (FIG. 3, step B5, [0049], lines 10-14).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Naofumi by including a method for associating document image information of a past time as taught by Takahashi in order to "prevent the loss, stain, and information leakage of print results when the operator does not collect the print results immediately (Takahashi, [0002], lines 13-18)". Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to maintain the security of the transferred data over the communication network, which could be intercepted by any unauthorized user to view.

16. As to claims 6, 11, 14, and 17, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein said scanner and/or said terminal apparatus comprises associated information

reading operation of image by said scanner is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image by said scanner completed ([0031]).

Neither Naofumi nor Takahashi explicitly discloses deleting associated information when reading operation completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image completed. However, Fuh discloses deleting associated information when reading operation completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image completed (col. 5, lines 11-20, Fuh teaches this concept by removing authentication information (i.e. fingerprint information) if the inactivity timer expires).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Naofumi and Takahashi as taught by Fuh in order to free up the memory space.

17. As to claims 7, 12, 15 and 18, Naofumi discloses the image processing system wherein when a document is removed before the reading operation of the image by said scanner is completed, said associated information deleting means does not delete the associated information generated for the removed document ([0031], which describes a checking is done whether the transfer of all images was completed and if not completed returns to complete the transfer).

18. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant has amended claims 1, 16 and 19, which necessitated new ground of rejections. See rejection above.

Conclusion

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUMAN DEBNATH whose telephone number is (571)270-1256. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on 571 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SD

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2/18/08